

BNSF



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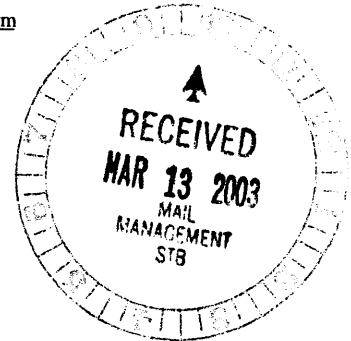
**The Burlington Northern and
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VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

March 12, 2003

Mr. L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy NeSHPO
Nebraska State Historical Society
1500 R Street
P.O. Box 82554
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2554



Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 400X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) Abandonment between Franklin and Red Cloud, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Puschendorf:

Enclosed is an *Archeological Assessment of a Proposed Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Abandonment, Webster and Franklin Counties, Nebraska* submitted by John R. Bozell, Archeological Consultant. This assessment was prepared pursuant to Condition #2 of the Environmental Assessment served on March 10, 2003 in the above-referenced docket (copy enclosed).

The Nebraska State Historical Society (SHPO) has identified the presence of two archaeological resources on or near the proposed abandonment. SHPO has recommended that a qualified archaeologist inspect the location of the two resources to determine the potential effect of the proposed abandonment.

Please refer to page 9 of the report in which Mr. Bozell has made certain recommendations regarding salvage of the line. BNSF is requesting SHPO's advice as to whether implementation of these recommendations will fulfill the Section 106 requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (817) 352-2354 or Sarah.Bailiff@BNSF.com.

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitley Bailiff

SWB/js

Enclosures

cc: Victoria Rutson, Chief, SEA (w/enclosures)
David Navecky, SEA (w/enclosures)
Richard Batie

DESCRIPTION OF THE LINE

According to BNSF, there has been no originating or terminating rail traffic on the subject line for the past two years, and there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted.

The subject rail line is located within the Republican River valley in rural southeast NE. Towns in the vicinity of the line include Franklin (population 1,026), Riverton (population 145), and Red Cloud (population 1,131). There are 13 public road crossings and 21 private road crossings that would be eliminated by the abandonment. The width of the right-of-way (ROW) is approximately 100 feet except at station locations. There are 26 bridges on the line that are 50 years of age or older.

According to BNSF, the Republican Valley Railroad Company (RVR) and the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company (CBQ) acquired the ROW from 1878 through 1921. RVR was a predecessor of the CBQ. In 1979, the CBQ merged with the Northern Pacific Railway Company and the Great Northern Railway Company to become Burlington Northern Railroad Company (BN). In 1995, BN merged with the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company to become BNSF.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The applicant submitted environmental and historical reports that indicate that the quality of the human environment would not be affected significantly as a result of the abandonment or any post-abandonment activities. The applicant served these reports on a number of appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies as required by the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) environmental rules [49 CFR 1105.7(b)]. We have reviewed and investigated the record in this proceeding.

The State Conservationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service has stated that the proposed abandonment would not affect prime farmland.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Omaha District stated that a Department of Army permit would not be required because BNSF does not propose to place any fill in any waters of the United States including wetlands.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 7 did not respond to the applicant's environmental report.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Ecological Services - Nebraska Field Office (USFWS) noted that two Federally-listed species may occur in the vicinity of the proposed abandonment. Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) winter and migrate along the Republican River, but the USFWS stated that it is unlikely that abandonment activities would adversely affect the bald eagles. Whooping cranes (*Grus americana*) have been confirmed using wetlands adjacent to the Republican River upstream from Franklin and downstream from Red Cloud, which are the two endpoints of the proposed abandonment. The USFWS stated that if whooping cranes are observed within 1 mile of active abandonment and salvaging activities, those activities should cease until the whooping cranes leave the area.

In response to the environmental report, the NE Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) stated that the records of the NE Natural Heritage Program indicate no documented occurrences of threatened or

endangered species or their critical habitats within or adjacent to the ROW. NGPC also noted that approximately 1.1 miles of the ROW proposed for abandonment occurs within the NGPC's Narrows Wildlife Management Area. However, NGPC did not identify any concerns related to the proposed abandonment and the wildlife management area.

Based on the information available to date, SEA concludes that the proposed abandonment is unlikely to adversely affect Federally-listed species. Therefore, a formal Section 7 consultation with the USFWS is not warranted. However, SEA recommends a condition to address the USFWS's whooping crane concerns.

The NE Department of Environmental Quality stated that a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would not be required for the removal of rails and ties.

The applicant is not aware of any hazardous waste sites, or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills within the ROW.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified ten geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. If abandonment and salvage activities could disturb or destroy these markers, NGS must be notified not less than 90 days in advance of the activities in order to plan for the relocation of the markers. In a February 11, 2003 letter from Brian Nettles, an attorney representing BNSF, to NGS, the 90-day notification was provided. Therefore, SEA concludes that a condition that addresses the 90-day notification requirement is unnecessary.

Because traffic has not moved on the subject rail line for the past two years, the proposed abandonment would not be expected to impact the development, use and transportation of energy resources or recyclable commodities, or result in the diversion of rail traffic to truck traffic that could result in impacts to air quality or the local transportation network.

Based on documentation provided by the applicant, the NE State Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) identified the presence of two archaeological resources on or near the proposed abandonment. Information on either resource is insufficient for the SHPO to make a determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Accordingly, the SHPO recommends that a qualified archaeologist inspect the location of the two resources to determine the potential effect of the proposed abandonment. The SHPO identified no other historic resources that could be affected by the proposed abandonment. SEA has recommended a condition to address the SHPO's concern for these two archaeological resources.

CONDITIONS

We recommend that the following environmental conditions be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, whooping cranes (*Grus americana*), a Federally-listed species, have been confirmed using wetlands adjacent to the Republican River upstream from Franklin, NE, and downstream from Red Cloud, NE, which are the two endpoints of the proposed abandonment. If the applicant observes whooping cranes within 1 mile of active abandonment and salvaging activities, those activities shall cease until the whooping cranes leave the area.

2. The applicant shall determine if the two archaeological resources identified by the Nebraska State Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) are located within the right-of-way (ROW) proposed for abandonment. If either or both of the archaeological resources are located within the ROW, the applicant shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of the ROW until completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the information provided from all sources to date, we conclude that, as currently proposed, abandonment of the line would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the environmental impact statement process is unnecessary.

Alternatives to the proposed abandonment would include denial (and, therefore, no change in operations), discontinuance of service without abandonment and continued operation by another operator. In any of these cases, the existing quality of the human environment and energy consumption should not be affected.

PUBLIC USE

If abandonment and salvage of the rail line do take place, the ROW may be suitable for other public uses. A request containing the requisite four-part showing for imposition of a public use condition (49 CFR 1152.28) must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board and served on the railroad within the time specified in the Federal Register notice.

TRAILS USE

A request for a notice of interim trail use (NITU) is due to the Surface Transportation Board, with a copy to the railroad, within 20 days of publication of the notice of exemption in the Federal Register. However, the Board will accept late-filed requests as long as it retains jurisdiction to do so. This request must comply with the Board's rules for use of ROWs as trails (49 CFR 1152.29).

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Board's Office of Public Services (OPS) responds to questions regarding interim trail use, public use, and other reuse alternatives. You may contact OPS directly at 202-565-1592 or mail inquiries to the Surface Transportation Board, Office of Public Services, Washington, DC 20423.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS

If you wish to file comments regarding this environmental assessment, send **an original and two copies** to Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit, Washington, DC 20423, to the attention of David Navecky, who prepared this environmental assessment. **Please refer to STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 400X) in all correspondence addressed to the Board. Questions regarding this**

environmental assessment should be referred to David Navecky at 202-565-1593 (naveckyd@stb.dot.gov).

Date made available to the public: March 10, 2003.

Comment due date: **March 24, 2003.**

By the Board, Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

Attachment

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***ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF A
PROPOSED BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND
SANTA FE RAILWAY ABANDONMENT,
WEBSTER AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES,
NEBRASKA***

by

John R. Bozell

March 2003

Report prepared for the **Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company,**
Fort Worth, Texas

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INTRODUCTION

This report was developed in response to discussions between the author and Mr. John Sims of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) regarding the need for a Phase 1 and Phase 2 archeological resources evaluation of select portions of a proposed 19.8-mile long track abandonment between Franklin and Red Cloud in Franklin and Webster Counties, Nebraska. The study was required by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) following their review of an Environmental Report developed by the BNSF for the proposed abandonment. The NeSHPO recommendation *did not* call for a survey of the entire abandonment segment but only an inspection of two previously recorded archeological properties (25FR36 and 25FR40) located near the western margin of the undertaking. The purpose of the recommended inspection of the two sites areas was to determine: 1) if they are *National Register* eligible properties and 2) if the abandonment and future related actions may result in an adverse effect to the resources.

This study provides the BNSF with brief environmental and cultural background, the results of field reconnaissance of all areas recommended for inspection by the NeSHPO, and recommendations regarding compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other pertinent legislation. This report was prepared in accordance with specifications issued by the NeSHPO (Steinacher 2001) and relevant federal and state guidelines.

Project Description and Location

The BNSF intends to abandon its track along a 19.8-mile segment of right-of-way between Franklin and Red Cloud, Nebraska. The undertaking will not require new construction by BNSF but may in the future involve sale or transfer of the right-of-way and potentially the removal of track and ties. The need for this archeological study emerged during an environmental review for the Surface Transportation Board (Docket No. AB-6 [Sub No. 400X]). The environmental study considers the potential effect of the abandonment on issues such as: economy, noise, water and air quality, wildlife, safety, and historic and archeological resources.

In order to assess potential impacts, the BNSF consulted widely with a variety of State, Local, and Federal agencies and requested comment on the undertaking. NeSHPO staff reviewed the undertaking and determined that two archeological sites exist immediately adjacent to BNSF right-of-way. They requested that BNSF assess the character of those properties and evaluate any potential present or future adverse impacts that may arise from the abandonment. The NeSHPO review concluded that the

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undertaking would not have an adverse impact on any other historic properties such as architectural sites, historic landscapes or the track and bridges.

The portion of the project requiring archeological assessment parallels the Republican River and is situated in the south ½ of Section 35; T2N R14W and the north ½ of Section 2 and the northwest ¼ of Section 1; T1N R14W in southeastern Franklin County, Nebraska. The study area is about four miles east of the community of Franklin and encompasses about 110 acres (see Appendix A). The tract is characterized primarily by level Republican River floodplain and adjacent natural terrace features at elevations ranging between 1785 and 1840 feet above MSL. Lovely Creek flows into the Republican near the western margin of the survey unit. With the exception of the BNSF right-of-way, the study area is entirely agricultural.

BACKGROUND

Environmental Setting

The project area is located in the Dissected Plains portion of southern Nebraska. This physiographic unit is a former broad plain that has been sculpted and re-worked through the actions of wind and water. The Republican River valley and its many tributary streams, ravines, and canyons dominate the landscape. The Republican River originates in northeast Colorado, flows through southwest and south-central Nebraska and enters Kansas near Superior, Nebraska about 50 miles east of the project. The Republican flows into the Smoky Hill River near Junction City, northeast Kansas.

Uplands in the area are covered with a mantle of soil overlying deposits (often times massive) of wind blown loess. Valleys of the Republican drainage consist of thick alluvial deposits with terrace and alluvial fan formations rather common. Bedrock is Cretaceous in origin and most local deposits are Niobrara Formation. Upper bedrock deposits in the region are often rich in a yellow to reddish colored jasper known by a variety of terms the most common of which is Republican River Jasper (RRJ). The high-quality flakable stone is abundant and was used extensively by native inhabitants of the region for production of stone tools (Wedel 1986:28). The Republican valley provides the densest concentration of flakable stone in Nebraska – a fact that directly relates to the rich archeological record of the region.

The native vegetation of the project area is tall and mixed grass prairie and deciduous riparian forest (Fenneman 1931; University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division 1969; Kaul 1993). Some plants of economic importance to past inhabitants of the region include: prairie turnip, sunflower, and Jerusalem artichoke (Wedel 1986:16-22). Common valley floor trees are: elm, oak, ash, box elder, walnut,

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cottonwood, and willow (ibid:21). Major game animals important to former inhabitants of the area include: bison, deer, pronghorn, rabbit, prairie dog, weasels, muskrat, coyote, grouse, waterfowl, turtles, suckers and catfish (ibid:22-23).

Cultural Setting

The Republican River valley of southwestern and south-central Nebraska is within a major archeological study unit referred to as the Central Plains sub area. The region has been the focus of productive anthropological research for decades. Archeological and historical research carried out for more than a century provides evidence of human occupation in the region for at least 10,000 years. Literature, both published and unpublished, about the archeology of the Republican basin is extensive. The majority however is summarized in syntheses by Wedel (1986), Kivett and Metcalf (1997) and Roper (2002).

All major cultural traditions identified for the Central Plains are represented in the region including: Paleoindian, Plains Archaic, Plains Woodland, Central Plains tradition, and historic-era village and Reservation tribes. During the 18th and 19th centuries, local portions of the Republican basin were territory to historic Native American tribes, particularly the Pawnee, Plains Apache, Sioux, and Cheyenne.

The Paleoindian period in the Republican valley is represented most notably by sites in the Medicine Creek Reservoir area of Frontier County. Components such as Lime Creek, Red Smoke, and Allen are deeply buried late Paleoindian habitation surfaces dating generally to the period 10,000-8000 years ago. These components have demonstrated that late Paleoindian people were not simply nomadic large game hunters. Evidence suggests a broad-spectrum hunting and gathering economy featuring residential seasonal base camps. By the end of the Paleoindian period, dramatic climatic changes resulted in significant drying and warming across large tracts of the Central Plains. These conditions persisted from about 8000 to 5000 years ago and resulted in only sporadic occupation of the Republican basin. The only well documented site of this time period is the Spring Creek site in the Red Willow Reservoir.

Improved climatic conditions allowed for gradual re-occupation of the Central Plains beginning during the Middle and Late Archaic periods (5000 – 2000 years ago) and accelerating during the Woodland period (2000-1000 years ago). Woodland sites are not uncommon in the Republican basin and several in the Medicine Creek, Red Willow Creek, and Massacre Canyon areas have been excavated and yielded important information about these formative agricultural societies. It is during the Woodland period that ceramic manufacture, semi-permanent villages, horticultural experimentation, and increasing social stratification become evident.

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The hallmark of Republican valley archeology and indeed the entire state of Nebraska is the Central Plains tradition (1000 to 600 years ago). These agricultural villagers left the most extensive and informative record of pre-European contact Native American life in the Central Plains. People of the Central Plains tradition in the project area are referred to as "Upper Republican" and their small farmsteads and hamlets dot creek valleys in the basin (Steinacher and Carlson 1998). Hundreds of sites have been identified and dozens excavated. It is not unreasonable to assume that hundreds of other Upper Republican sites lie undiscovered in the Republican valley. The Upper Republican people constructed permanent timber and earth lodges and practiced extensive hunting, gathering, and horticulture. Although unconfirmed, they are widely thought to relate to the development of the historic period Pawnee, Arikara, and Wichita tribes. By A.D. 1400 the Central Plains tradition had largely dissolved in response to migration and warfare stemming from renewed climatic deterioration. The abandonment occurred first in the Republican basin and there is little evidence of Upper Republican after A.D. 1300. For a brief time in the 1300s, Oneota tradition people (ancestors of Siouan-speaking eastern Plains and Midwestern tribes) made incursions into the Republican basin (Logan 1995).

The Republican valley was largely abandoned until the early 1700s when Plains Apache people referred to as the Dismal River culture colonized portions of the west Central Plains (Gunnerson 1960). Important Dismal River villages have been investigated in the Harlan County Reservoir area as well as in Chase County. The Dismal River occupation appears to have ended by about 1750 and from that point the Pawnee, Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho used the region as hunting territory until the Reservation era. The most important sites associated with this period are Massacre Canyon in Hitchcock County and Pawnee villages on the Kansas-Nebraska border near Guide Rock. Massacre Canyon was the site of a massacre of Pawnee people by the Sioux in August of 1873.

Colonial European and American presence in the region began with various 18th century and early 19th century explorations although archeological expressions of these efforts are unlikely to exist. Some of the more prominent expeditions were those of Melgares and Pike in 1806, Fremont in 1843, and Warren in 1855-1857. American settlement began in the 1860s and Franklin County was formed in 1871.

Seventy-four archeological sites have been recorded in Franklin County as a result of reports by landowners and collectors and projects initiated by the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State Historical Society. Sites represent a wide range of pre-contact and contact period cultural traditions identified for the Central Plains including: Paleoindian (1), Archaic (1), Woodland (9), Central Plains (26), Historic

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Native American (1), unassigned Native American (19), Euroamerican (9), and unknown (8).

National Register Properties

Consultation of the most recent full listing of *National Register of Historic Places* properties on file at the NeSHPO indicates seven sites are presently listed in Franklin County. Only one of these is archeological – the Lost Creek Upper Republican site near Bloomington. The remaining listed properties include: Republican River bridges south of Franklin and Riverton, the Dupee Music Hall, County Courthouse, and Lincoln Hotel – all in Franklin, and the First Congregational Church In Naponee. None of these properties will be impacted by the proposed BNSF abandonment.

FIELD INVESTIGATION

Survey Procedures and Conditions

An intensive (100% coverage) pedestrian survey of the project area was completed by the author on February 12 and 13, 2003. In addition to examining previously recorded sites 25FR36 and 25FR40, a buffer area around the Lovely Creek mouth locality was surveyed in the event other previously unknown archeological properties are present. The total area examined was about 110 acres. The majority of the project area is cultivated offering between 75 and 100% surface visibility. In general terrace slopes and the BNSF right-of-way were covered with pasture grass and trees affording visibility on the order of 25%.

The survey was completed using zig-zag transects between 20 and 40 meters in width across the entire 110 acre survey area. In non-cultivated areas, special attention was paid to cattle/deer trails, stream banks, animal disturbances, erosional faces, the BNSF right-of-way cuts, vehicle trails, and any other areas allowing examination of surface or subsurface exposures. Frozen ground prevented formal subsurface testing however, surface and erosional observations were sufficient to identify site limits and define site characteristics relevant to assessment of *National Register* values. The study area does not possess any deep terraces or alluvial fans that would require mechanical coring or trenching to ascertain the presence of deeply buried cultural deposits.

Identified archeological sites were photographed and a sketch map prepared. Observed surface limits of sites were mapped with a Trimble Geo Explorer III Global Positioning System receiver and placed into the Nebraska Cultural Resources Geographic Information System maintained by the Nebraska State Historical Society, Archeology Division.

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Survey Results

The field survey resulted in the evaluation of four (4) archeological sites. Three were identified in 1975 including 25FR35, 25FR36, and 25FR40. Site 25FR62 was discovered during the course of the survey. All sites are prehistoric Native American components located on terraces above and to the north of the Republican River valley floor and the BNSF right-of-way. Nebraska archeological site survey forms, photographs, and maps for each property are provided in Appendix A.

25FR35

This site was initially recorded by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1975 and at that time expressed as a 2-4 acre scatter of stone flaking debris on a terrace east and above the mouth of Lovely Creek. The site was relocated during the present study and found to cover about 6000 square meters at 1830-1840 feet MSL. The BNSF right-of-way is about 100 meters south of the site. Portions of the site are cultivated and others are covered with trees and pasture grass. As in 1975, this property is defined on the basis of a relatively thin scatter of chipped stone debris. No stone tools, pottery or any other temporally or functionally diagnostic materials were observed. In addition, no evidence was noted on the surface or eroding from the site edges suggesting the presence of buried subsurface features such as ash, daub, charcoal, or fire-cracked rock.

25FR36

This site was also recorded by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1975 and at that time expressed as a small scatter of stone flaking debris on a terrace west and above the mouth of Lovely Creek. A local informant reported ceramics on this site although none were identified during the 1975 inspection. The site was relocated during the present study and found to cover about 5000 square meters at 1810-1830 feet MSL. Most of the site is covered with eroded pasture grass. As in 1975, this property is defined entirely on the basis of a relatively thin scatter of chipped stone debris. No stone tools, pottery or any other temporally or functionally diagnostic materials were observed. In addition, no evidence was noted on the surface or eroding from the site edges suggesting the presence of buried subsurface features. The southern end of the site was damaged during initial railway construction and the site appears to have sustained further damage from land leveling. The BNSF right-of-way delineates the southern margin of the site.

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25FR40

The Nebraska State Historical Society recorded this archeological resource in 1975 on a terrace overlooking the BNSF right-of-way and the Republican River valley floor. The site was relocated during the present study and found to cover about 10,000 square meters at 1820-1830 feet MSL. Most of the site is cultivated with some pasture along the southern margin. Only a comparatively thin scatter of chipped stone debris was observed at this site. Stone tools, pottery or any other temporally or functionally diagnostic materials were not observed during the field inspection. In addition, no evidence of buried deposits was noted on the surface or eroding from the site edges. A large borrow pit or cut runs along the southern edge of the site and afforded a good opportunity to view the subsurface character of this terrace. Again, no evidence of buried cultural deposits was noted. The site appears to have sustained damage from land leveling. The BNSF right-of-way is about 50 meters from the southern site margin.

25FR62

This site was identified during the present project and consists of a comparatively dense and diverse scatter of cultural materials exposed on a terrace above the Republican River valley floor and the BNSF right-of-way. The site is at 1810-1820 feet MSL and covers only about 4000 square meters – most of which is cultivated. The BNSF right-of-way lies about 50 meters to the south of the site. Observed surface materials include dense chipped stone flaking debris, stone tools (end scrapers and knives), fire-cracked rock, and Native American pottery fragments. Ceramics are grit-tempered with cord-roughened surfaces. One observed ceramic rim sherd features parallel horizontally incised lines. Several fragments of mammal bone were also observed that are within the deer, pronghorn, bison size range. Erosion along the margins of the site revealed occasional pieces of flaking debris, burned animal bone, charcoal and daub. These types of materials eroding from the surface to about 50 centimeters below surface argue strongly for the presence of buried features such as lodge floors, hearths, or storage/refuse pits. The ceramics are consistent with an Upper Republican cultural affiliation (A.D. 1000-1400).

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Field investigations provide sufficient documentation for evaluation of these four properties with respect to *National Register of Historic Places* eligibility criteria. Definition and determination of eligibility criteria are outlined in various regulations implementing the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Determination of eligibility requires assessment of two broad considerations -- 1) physical integrity and 2) research potential. An archeological site generally must possess *both integrity* and

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research potential to qualify for the register and thus be worthy of avoidance or data recovery.

Physical integrity relates to the preservation conditions of the site. Essentially, if a Native American site possesses intact buried cultural deposits or features such as lodge floors, hearths, or storage/refuse pits, it is considered to have a high degree of physical integrity. Properties that have been subjected to severe erosion, terracing, or previous construction, and buried features removed, possess low physical integrity. Research potential values relate to the data contained within the site. Data must be appropriate for addressing one, and generally multiple, research topics. Such topics normally must be of such a caliber that research involving them is likely to result in a significant contribution or advancement to regional or national archeology or history.

Sites 25FR35, 25FR36, and 25FR40 are relatively homogeneous. All are expressed by sparse scatters of Republican River Jasper flaking debris exposed on the surfaces of 1st or 2nd Republican River terraces. Little or no evidence was observed of functionally diverse cultural materials such as ceramics, stone tools, fire-cracked rock, charcoal, faunal remains or daub. The sites either reflect short-term camping events or were more substantial habitations or villages that have been damaged significantly by cultivation, land leveling, or erosion. All three properties have eroded edges offering an opportunity for subsurface features to be exposed although no such evidence was noted. Given these circumstances, these archeological sites are not eligible for nomination to the *National Register of Historic Places*. They do not possess the minimum characteristics that would enable productive pursuit of important research questions. They cannot be expected to contribute to a sharper understanding of the past in any significant fashion.

Site 25FR62 on the other is eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The site surface and eroded edges yielded abundant chipped stone debris as well as several stone tools, Central Plains tradition pottery fragments, animal bone, charcoal, daub and fire-cracked rock. The abundance and diversity of Native American materials are diagnostic and typical of Upper Republican hamlets widely scattered along stream valleys of the Republican basin. These site types contain buried lodge floors, storage/refuse pits, postholes, hearths, and midden deposits.

A broad variety of important Upper Republican research questions have emerged over the past fifty years relating to culture history, technology, paleoclimate, settlement patterns, and subsistence strategies. The quantity and diversity of cultural materials at site 25FR62 argues strongly for productive data recovery in the context of addressing pertinent research questions.

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Based on plans for abandonment of the BNSF line, further archeological work is not justified *at this point* with respect to historic preservation concerns. Sites 25FR35, 25FR36, and 25FR40 are not *National Register* caliber properties and are not of any further concern. The only archeological property that is eligible for the *National Register of Historic Places* is site 25FR62 and the site is about 50 meters from the BNSF right-of-way. Abandoning the right-of-way will not result in an adverse impact to the site however consideration needs to be given to future cumulative impacts.

The BNSF will need to address the potential for future adverse effects to 25FR62 as a *direct* result of its abandonment. Most importantly, if the BNSF sells or transfers the property, provisions will need to be made clear between BNSF and the subsequent owner regarding protection of the site. If future use of the line involves removal of track and ties and any construction, measures will need to be developed for avoidance of site 25FR62 or if it cannot be avoided, a mitigation plan will need to be developed in consultation with the NeSHPO.

In the unlikely event human burials are discovered during any subsequent construction along the BNSF right-of-way, the Franklin County Attorney and the Nebraska State Historical Society needs to be contacted as a first step in complying with state burial protection laws. Any changes in project limits may require further consultation with the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

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University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division

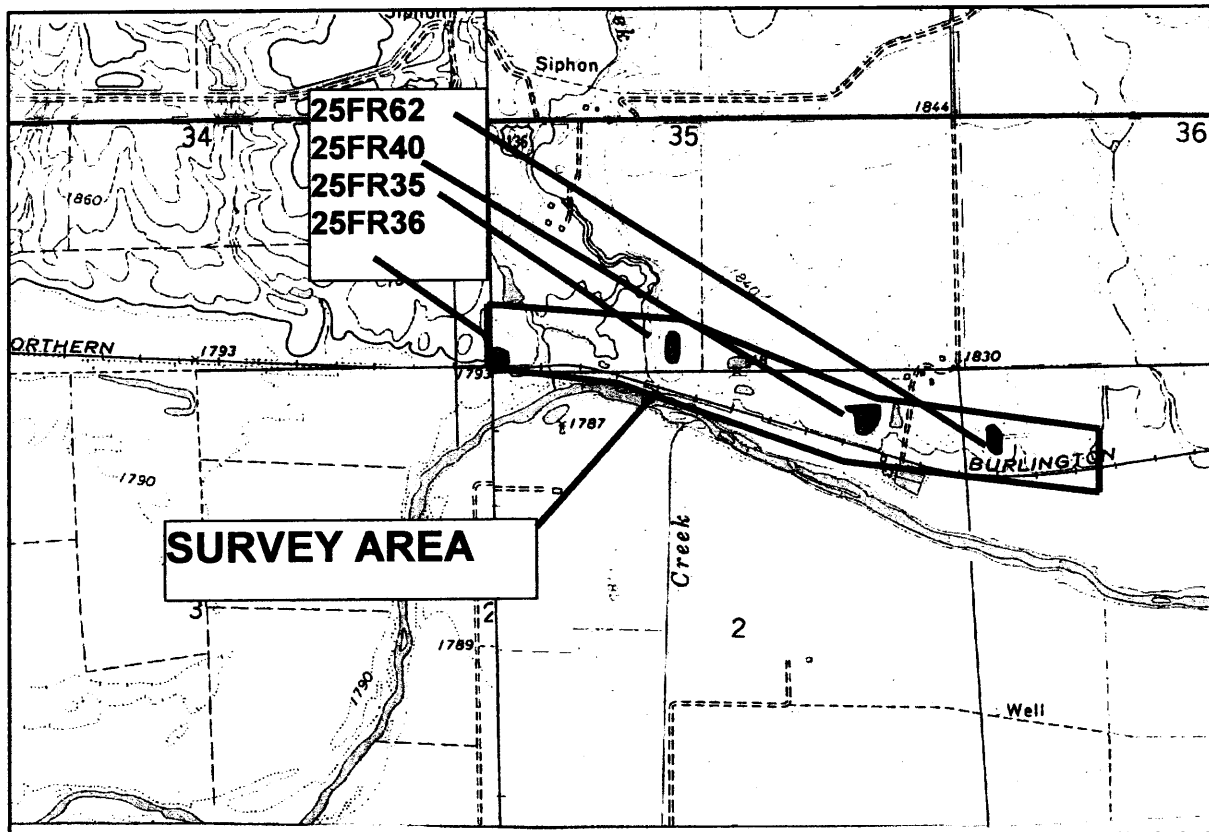
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APPENDIX A:
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

**PROJECT AREA MAP
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE SURVEY FORMS**





Nebraska State Historical Society

Archeological Site Survey Form

1. Site Number: 25FR35 2. Site Name: _____
3. Project: Red Cloud-Franklin Abandonment 4. Survey Agency/Co.: NSHS
5. Field Number: _____ 6. Sponsor/Contract Agency: BNSF
7. County: Franklin 8. Drainage (NSHS only): _____
9. U.S.G.S. Quad. Map: Riverton NE NAD: x 1927 _____ 1983
10. _____ New Site X Previously Known Site (form is an update)

11. Legal Description:

QUARTER/HALE SECTIONS				SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE
SE	SE	SW		35	2N	14W

____ See Comments/Continuation Sheet

11. Site Size (m²): 6000 12. Elevation (ft): Min. 1830 Max. 1840

13. Descriptive Site Type:

- x Surface
____ Buried Features/Cultural Layer(s)
____ Cave/Rockshelter
____ Unknown
____ Other _____

14. Functional Site Type:

- ____ Burial(s)
____ Ceremonial/Religious
____ Extraction/Processing
____ Habitation
x Unknown
____ Other _____

15. Cultural Context:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ____ Paleoindian | ____ Equestrian Nomads * |
| ____ Archaic | ____ Reservation Native American |
| ____ Woodland | ____ Non-Specific Ceramic |
| ____ Central Plains | ____ Non-specific Late Prehist./Protohistoric |
| ____ Coalescent | <u>x</u> Unknown Prehistoric |
| ____ Oneota | ____ Euroamerican |
| ____ Western Nebraska Protohistoric | ____ Other Ethnic Historic |
| ____ Caddoan Villagers | ____ Unknown Historic |
| ____ Sedentary Siouan Villagers | ____ Unknown |

16. Specific Cultural Affiliation (phase, context, etc.)

17. Features:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
<u>Mounds</u>	<u> </u>
<u>Depressions</u>	<u> </u>
<u>Stains</u>	<u> </u>
<u>Petroglyphs</u>	<u> </u>
<u>Petrographs</u>	<u> </u>

TYPE	NO.
Rock Outline/Concentrations	
Historic Standing/Collapsed Buildings, Structures or Objects	
Historic Foundations	
Middens/Trash Deposits	
Other ()	

18. Artifactual Material:

[illegible]

Chipped Stone Tools

Chipped Stone Debris

Ground Stone

Natural Stone Tools

Fire-cracked Rock

Other Lithic Debris

Rim Sherds

Body Sherds

Worked Bone

Worked Shell

Historic Artifacts

Faunal Remains

Floral Remains

Human Bone

Burned Earth

Daub

Isolated Item

Other

19. Site Work Status (check all work done):

 x **Reported**

 x **Surveyed**

 x **Photographed**

 x **Sketch Mapped**

 Instrument Mapped

 x **Mapped with GPS**

GPS make/ Trimble Geoexplorer III
model

Differentially Corrected? x Y N

_____ **Soil Cored/Probed**

_____ **Tested (pits/posthole/backhoe)**

_____ **Remote Sensing** _____

_____ **Excavated Partially**

_____ **Excavated Completely**

_____ **Surface Collected (uncontrolled)**

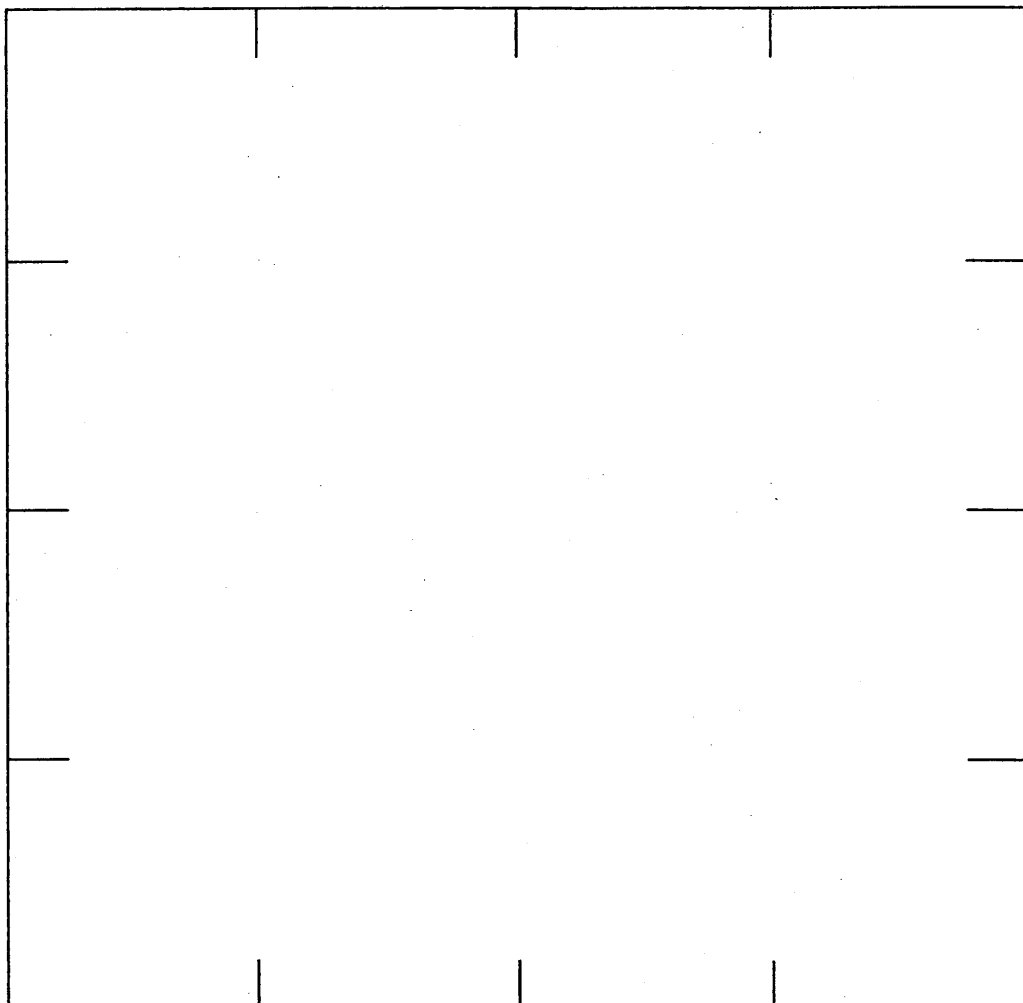
_____ **Surface Collected (controlled)**

_____ **other:**

20. ATTACH TO THIS SURVEY A XEROX COPY OF THE U.S.G.S. OR APPROPRIATE MAP SHOWING SITE LOCATION. IF NO APPROPRIATE SCALE MAP IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE PROVIDE A SKETCH MAP.

21. Sketch Map (optional):

Site No. 25FR35 Mapped by Bozell
Scale _____ Date 2-13-2003



22. Present Condition:

☐ Undisturbed ☒ Disturbed ☐ Destroyed

23. Site Impacts:

Fill in the appropriate number(s): 1 = past, 2 = current, 3 = anticipated

<u>1,2,3</u>	Water Erosion	_____	Recreation
<u>1,2,3</u>	Wind Erosion	_____	Construction
<u>1,2,3</u>	Animal Activity	<u>1,2,3</u>	Agriculture
_____	Vandalism	_____	Other _____

24. National Register Status (SHPO only):

☐ On Register
☐ Eligible
☐ Not Eligible

25. Investigators Impression of National Register:

☐ Potentially Eligible
☒ Not Eligible
☐ Unevaluated/Unknown

26. Informant: Charles Chalfon, Franklin NE (1977)

Address: _____

27. Owner of Site:

x Private (Name/Address, if known) Steve Siel (rural Franklin)

State (Agency) _____

Federal (Agency) _____

Other _____

28. Primary Information Location:

NSHS	UNL Museum	UNL Anthro. Dept	Other	
<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	Written Records
<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	Map/Chart Records
<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	Photo Records
_____	_____	_____	_____	Collections

29. Report References:

AN ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BNSF ABANDONMENT (FRANKLIN TO RED CLOUD), WEBSTER AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES, NEBRASKA

2003

by Rob Bozell

30. Comments:

This site was recorded in 1977 as a scatter of lithic debris. The site was re-visited in 2003 and also was expressed by a relatively thin scatter of lithic debris exposed on a 2nd terrace above the mouth of Lovely Creek. The site has been damaged by land leveling and cultivation. No tools or diagnostic materials were observed. In addition no evidence of features (fire-cracked rock, charcoal, daub, ash etc) was noted on the surface or eroding from the edge of the site area.

See Comments/Continuation Sheet for Additional Comments

31. Survey Conducted By:

Rob Bozell

(Name)

Feb 13, 2003

(Date)

Form Filled Out By:

Rob Bozell 

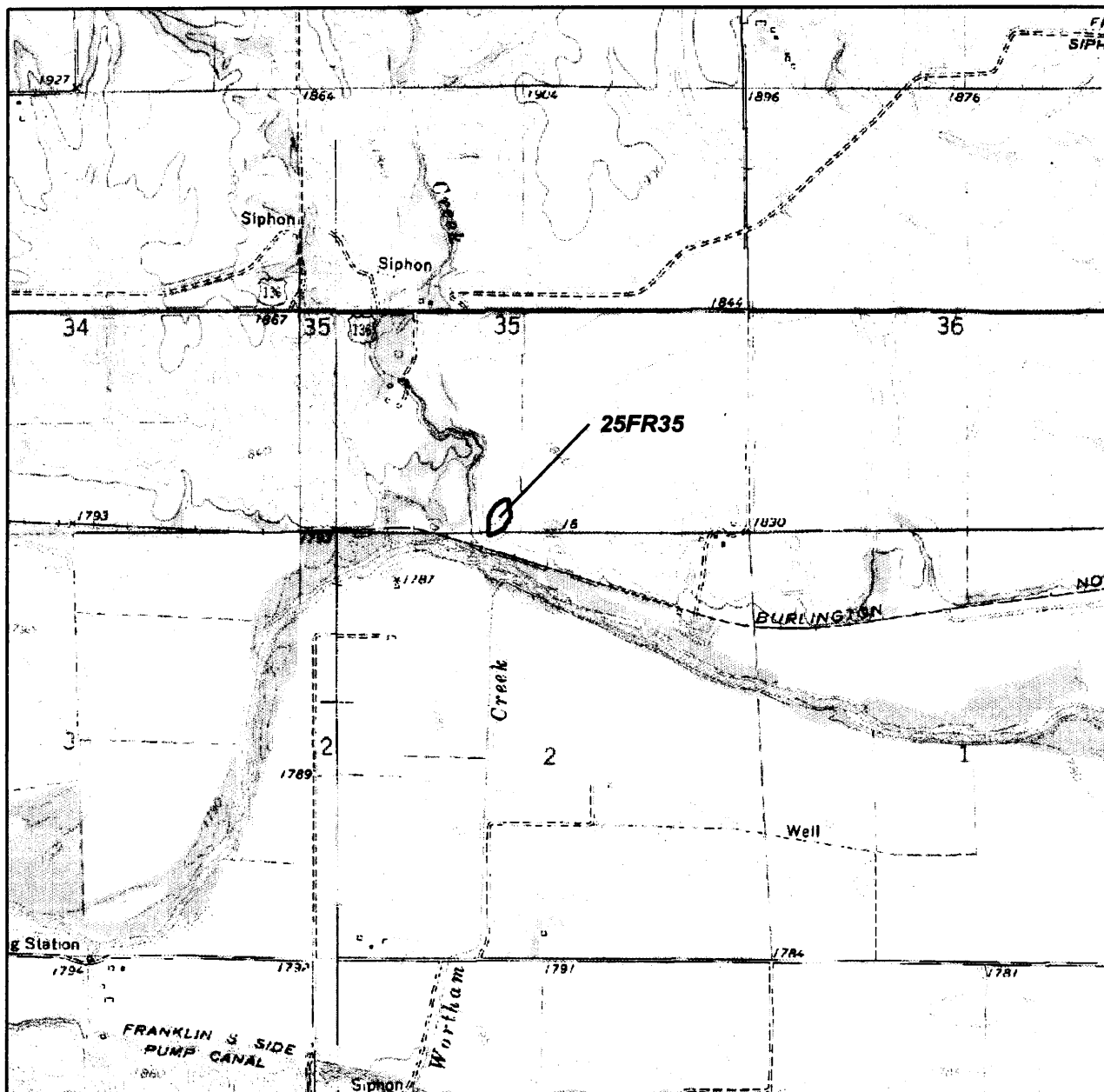
(Name)

February 16, 2003

(Date)

Send Completed Forms To:

Nebraska State Historical Society
Archeology Division
P. O. Box 82554
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2554



25FR35



site boundary

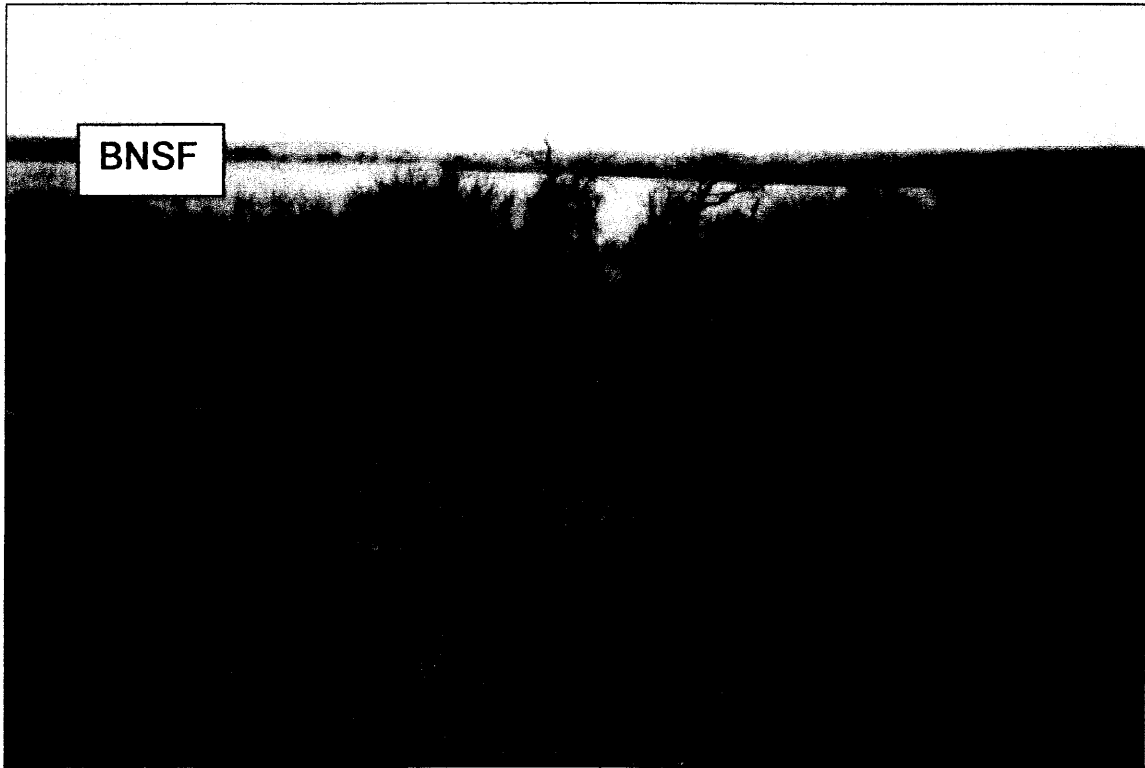


0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 mi

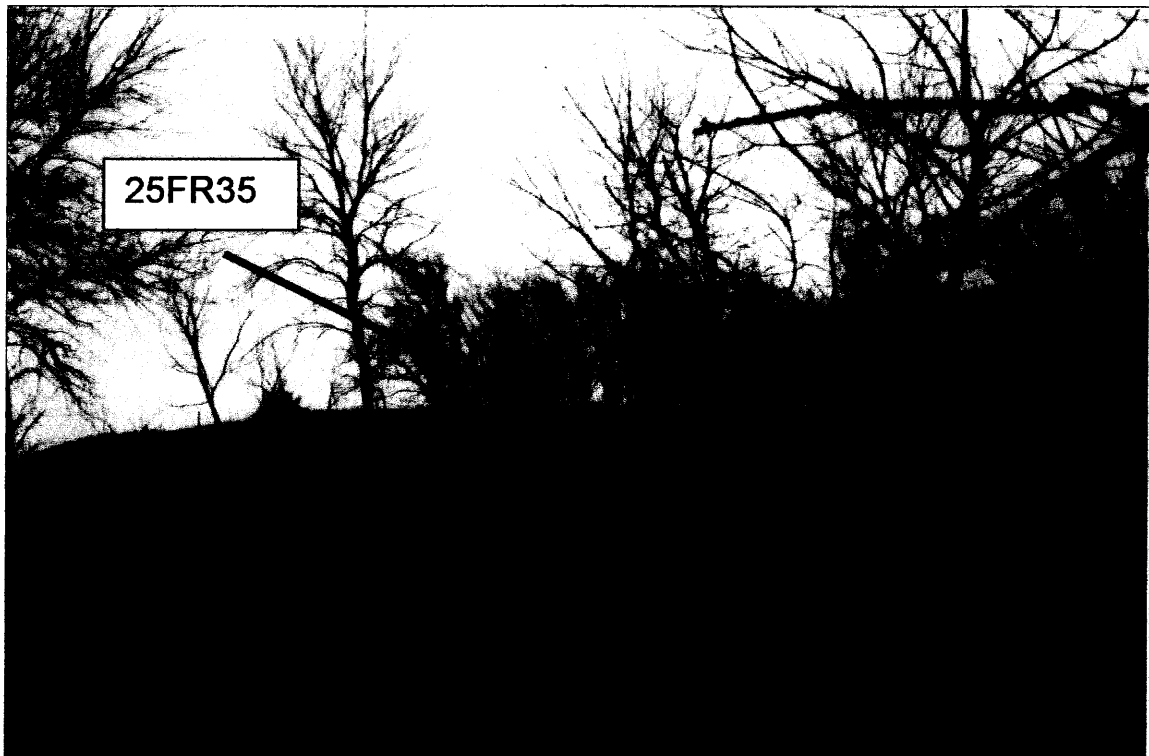
0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 km

FRANKLIN





View to the southwest from 25FR35 to BNSF right-of-way and Lovely Creek.



View to the northeast from BNSF right-of-way to site 25FR35.



Nebraska State Historical Society

Archeological Site Survey Form

1. Site Number: 25FR36 2. Site Name: _____
3. Project: Red Cloud-Franklin Abandonment 4. Survey Agency/Co.: NSHS
5. Field Number: _____ 6. Sponsor/Contract Agency: BNSF
7. County: Franklin 8. Drainage (NSHS only): _____
9. U.S.G.S. Quad. Map: Riverton NE, Franklin, NE NAD: x 1927 1983
10. New Site X Previously Known Site (form is an update)

11. Legal Description:

QUARTER/HALE SECTIONS				SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE
SW	SW	SW		35	2N	14W

See Comments/Continuation Sheet

11. Site Size (m²): 7000 12. Elevation (ft): Min. 1810 Max. 1830

13. Descriptive Site Type:

- x Surface
 Buried Features/Cultural Layer(s)
 Cave/Rockshelter
 Unknown
 Other _____

14. Functional Site Type:

- Burial(s)
 Ceremonial/Religious
 Extraction/Processing
 Habitation
x Unknown
 Other _____

15. Cultural Context:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <u> </u> Paleoindian | <u> </u> Equestrian Nomads* |
| <u> </u> Archaic | <u> </u> Reservation Native American |
| <u> </u> Woodland | <u> </u> Non-Specific Ceramic |
| <u> </u> Central Plains | <u> </u> Non-specific Late Prehist./Protohistoric |
| <u> </u> Coalescent | <u>x</u> Unknown Prehistoric |
| <u> </u> Oneota | <u> </u> Euroamerican |
| <u> </u> Western Nebraska Protohistoric | <u> </u> Other Ethnic Historic |
| <u> </u> Caddoan Villagers | <u> </u> Unknown Historic |
| <u> </u> Sedentary Siouan Villagers | <u> </u> Unknown |

16. Specific Cultural Affiliation (phase, context, etc.)

17. Features:

TYPE	NO.	TYPE	NO.
<u> </u> Mounds	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Rock Outline/Concentrations	<u> </u>
<u> </u> Depressions	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Historic Standing/Collapsed Buildings, Structures or Objects	<u> </u>
<u> </u> Stains	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Historic Foundations	<u> </u>
<u> </u> Petroglyphs	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Middens/Trash Deposits	<u> </u>
<u> </u> Petrographs	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Other (<u> </u>)	<u> </u>

18. Artifactual Material:

OBSERVED/NOT
COLLECTED

COLLECTED

<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

<u> </u> Chipped Stone Tools
<u> </u> Chipped Stone Debris
<u> </u> Ground Stone (in possession of landowner)
<u> </u> Natural Stone Tools
<u> </u> Fire-cracked Rock
<u> </u> Other Lithic Debris
<u> </u> Rim Sherds
<u> </u> Body Sherds (reported by 1977 informant)
<u> </u> Worked Bone
<u> </u> Worked Shell
<u> </u> Historic Artifacts
<u> </u> Faunal Remains
<u> </u> Floral Remains
<u> </u> Human Bone
<u> </u> Burned Earth
<u> </u> Daub
<u> </u> Isolated Item <u> </u>
<u> </u> Other <u> </u>

19. Site Work Status (check all work done):

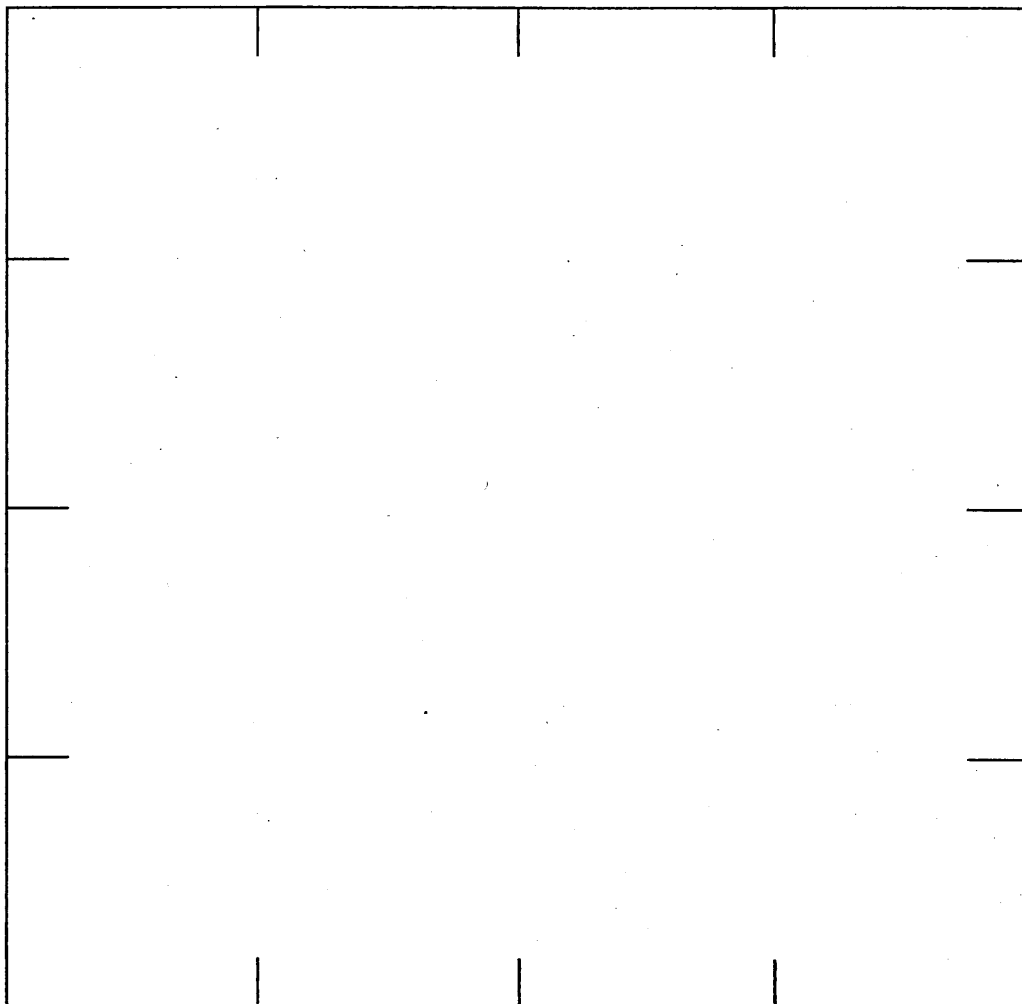
<u> x </u> Reported
<u> x </u> Surveyed
<u> x </u> Photographed
<u> x </u> Sketch Mapped
<u> </u> Instrument Mapped
<u> x </u> Mapped with GPS
GPS make/ Trimble Geoexplorer III model
Differentially Corrected? <u> x </u> Y <u> </u> N

<u> </u> Soil Cored/Probed
<u> </u> Tested (pits/posthole/backhoe)
<u> </u> Remote Sensing <u> </u>
<u> </u> Excavated Partially
<u> </u> Excavated Completely
<u> </u> Surface Collected (uncontrolled)
<u> </u> Surface Collected (controlled)
<u> </u> other: <u> </u>

20. ATTACH TO THIS SURVEY A XEROX COPY OF THE U.S.G.S. OR APPROPRIATE MAP SHOWING SITE LOCATION. IF NO APPROPRIATE SCALE MAP IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE PROVIDE A SKETCH MAP.

21. Sketch Map (optional):

Site No. 25FR36 Mapped by Bozell
Scale _____ Date 2-13-2003



22. Present Condition:

 Undisturbed x Disturbed Destroyed

23. Site Impacts:

Fill in the appropriate number(s): 1 = past, 2 = current, 3 = anticipated

<u>1,2,3</u>	Water Erosion	<u> </u>	Recreation
<u>1,2,3</u>	Wind Erosion	<u> 1 </u>	Construction
<u>1,2,3</u>	Animal Activity	<u>1,2,3</u>	Agriculture
<u> </u>	Vandalism	<u> </u>	Other <u> </u>

24. National Register Status (SHPO only):

 On Register
 Eligible
 Not Eligible

25. Investigators Impression of National Register:

 Potentially Eligible
 x Not Eligible
 Unevaluated/Unknown

26. Informant: Charles Chalfon, Franklin NE (1977)

Address: _____

27. Owner of Site:

x Private (Name/Address, if known) Steve Siel (rural Franklin)

_____ State (Agency) _____

_____ Federal (Agency) _____

_____ Other _____

28. Primary Information Location:

NSHS	UNL Museum	UNL Anthro. Dept	Other
<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____ Written Records
<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____ Map/Chart Records
<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____ Photo Records
_____	_____	_____	_____ Collections

29. Report References:

AN ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BNSF ABANDONMENT (FRANKLIN TO RED CLOUD), WEBSTER AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES, NEBRASKA

2003

by Rob Bozell

30. Comments:

This site was recorded in 1977 as a scatter of lithic debris. The site was re-visited in 2003 and also was expressed by a relatively thin scatter of lithic debris exposed on a 2nd terrace above the mouth of Lovely Creek. The site has been damaged by RR construc. and cultivation. No tools or diagnostic materials were observed. In addition no evidence of features (fire-cracked rock, charcoal, daub, ash etc) was noted on the surface or eroding from the edge of the site area. The 1977 informant did report finding pottery at the site but none was found during this re-inspection.

See Comments/Continuation Sheet for Additional Comments

31. Survey Conducted By:

Rob Bozell

(Name)

Feb 13, 2003

(Date)

Form Filled Out By:

Rob Bozell 

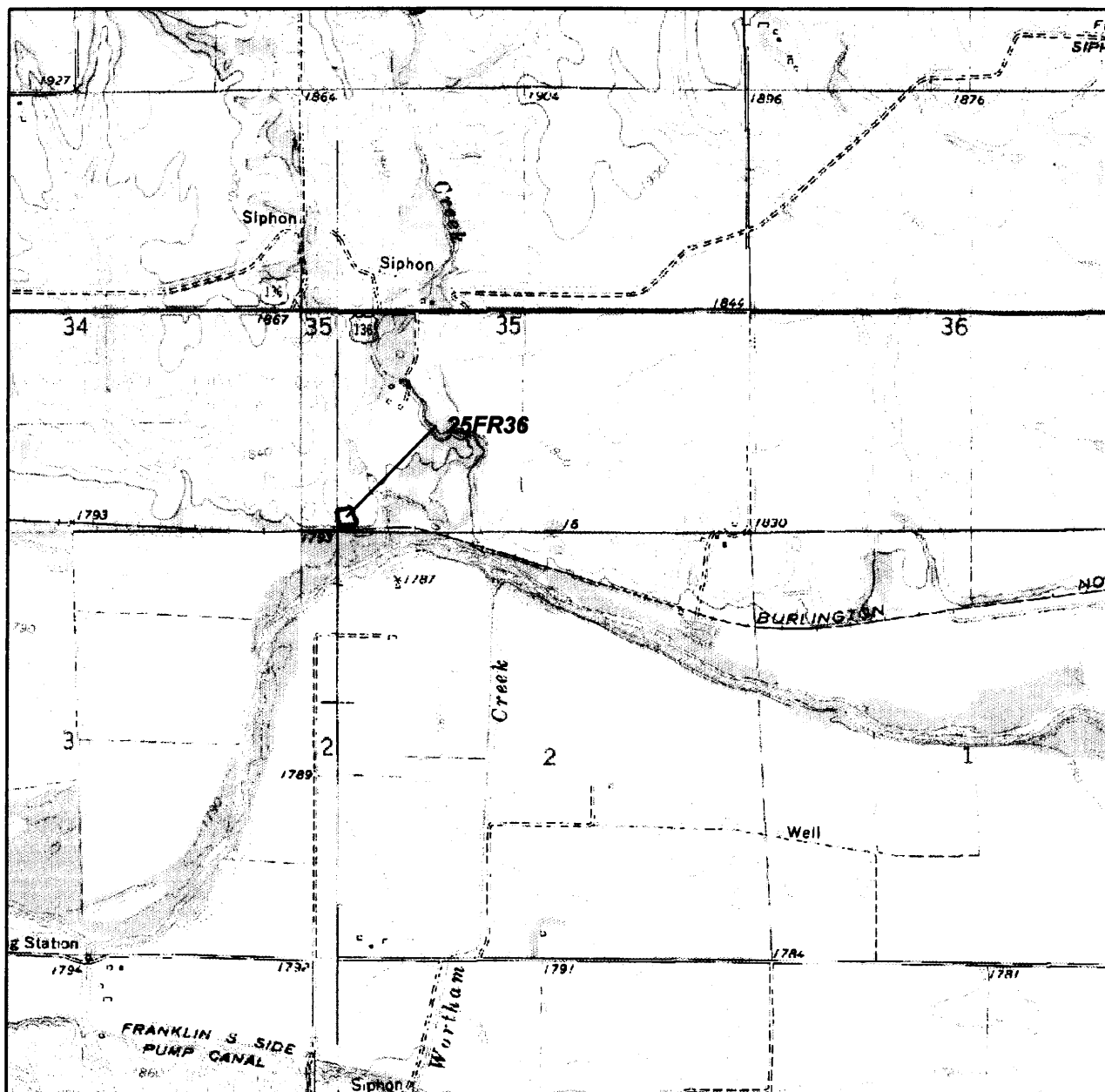
(Name)

February 16, 2003

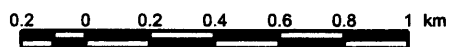
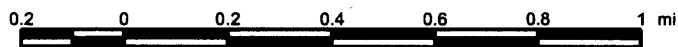
(Date)

Send Completed Forms To:

Nebraska State Historical Society
Archeology Division
P. O. Box 82554
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2554

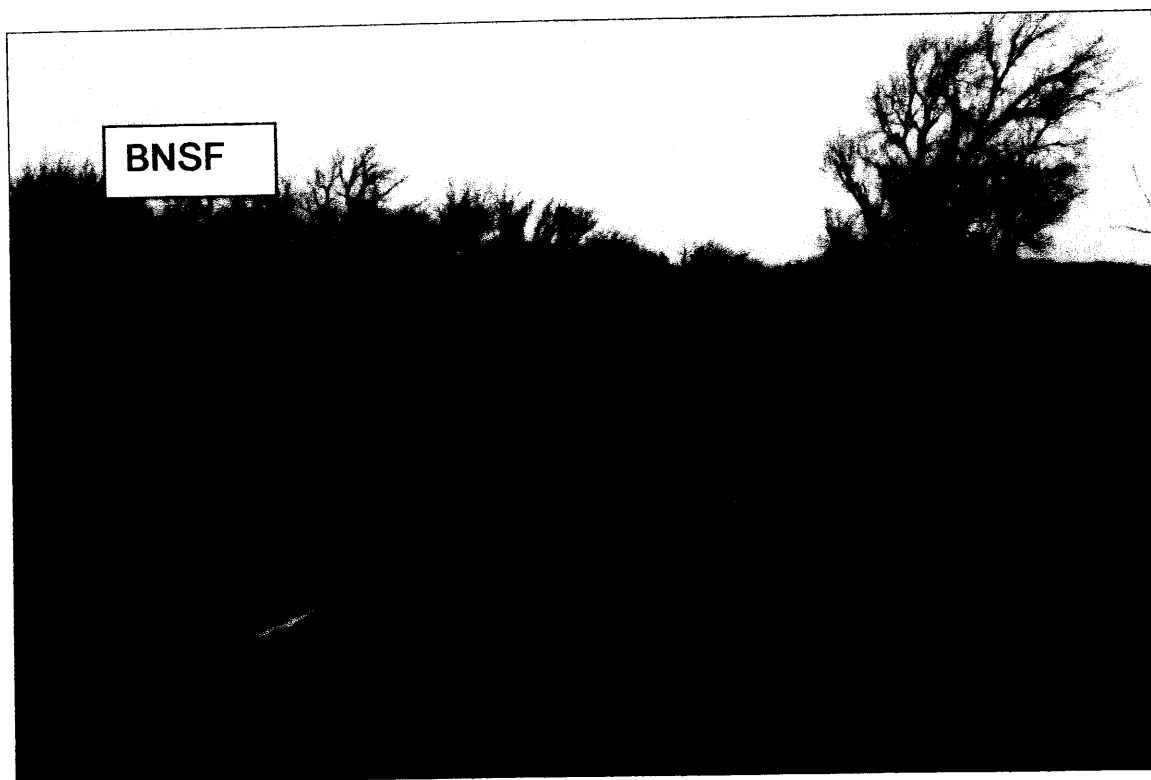


25FR36

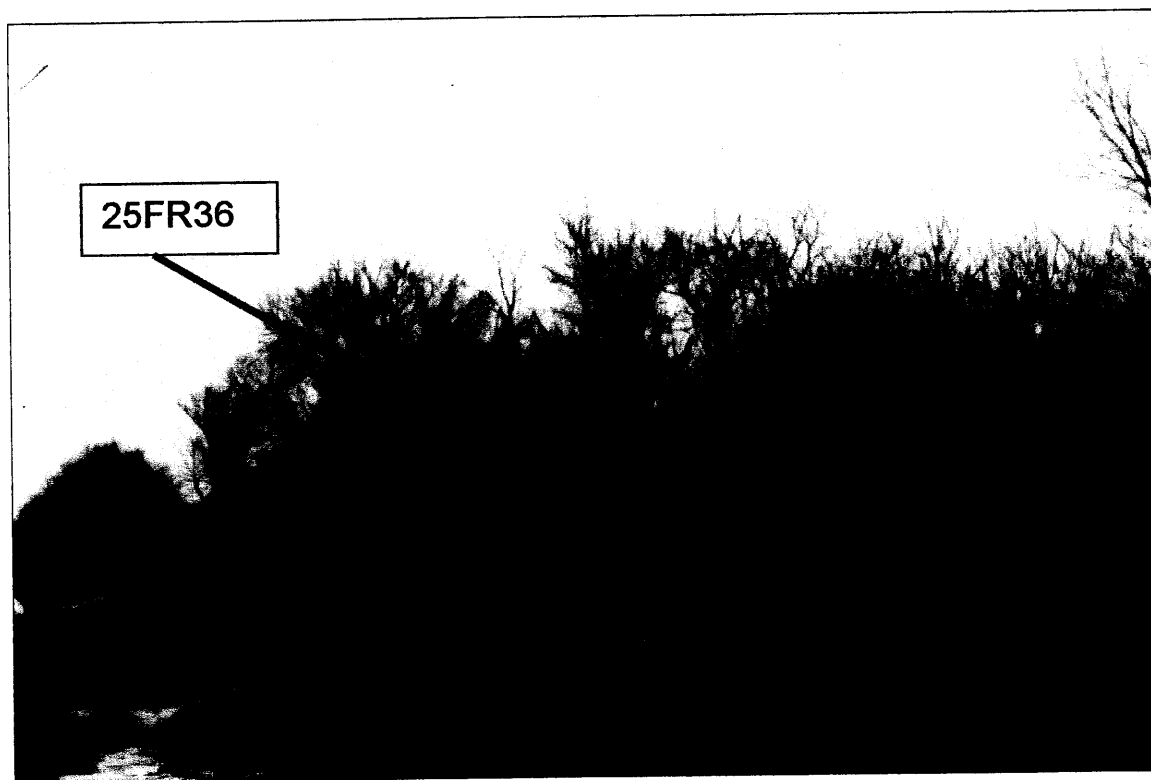


FRANKLIN





View to the southwest from 25FR36 to BNSF right-of-way.



View to the northwest from BNSF right-of-way to site 25FR36.



Nebraska State Historical Society

Archeological Site Survey Form

1. Site Number: 25FR40 2. Site Name: _____
3. Project: Red Cloud-Franklin Abandonment 4. Survey Agency/Co.: NSHS
5. Field Number: _____ 6. Sponsor/Contract Agency: BNSF
7. County: Franklin 8. Drainage (NSHS only): _____
9. U.S.G.S. Quad. Map: Riverton NE NAD: x 1927 _____ 1983
10. _____ New Site X Previously Known Site (form is an update)

11. Legal Description:

QUARTER/HALE SECTIONS

				SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE
<u>S</u>	<u>NW</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1N</u>	<u>14W</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

_____ See Comments/Continuation Sheet

11. Site Size (m²): 10,000 12. Elevation (ft): Min. 1820 Max. 1830

13. Descriptive Site Type:

- x Surface
_____ Buried Features/Cultural Layer(s)
_____ Cave/Rockshelter
_____ Unknown
_____ Other _____

14. Functional Site Type:

- _____ Burial(s)
_____ Ceremonial/Religious
_____ Extraction/Processing
_____ Habitation
x Unknown
_____ Other _____

15. Cultural Context:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| _____ Paleoindian | _____ Equestrian Nomads |
| _____ Archaic | _____ Reservation Native American |
| _____ Woodland | _____ Non-Specific Ceramic |
| _____ Central Plains | _____ Non-specific Late Prehist./Protohistoric |
| _____ Coalescent | <u>x</u> Unknown Prehistoric |
| _____ Oneota | _____ Euroamerican |
| _____ Western Nebraska Protohistoric | _____ Other Ethnic Historic |
| _____ Caddoan Villagers | _____ Unknown Historic |
| _____ Sedentary Siouan Villagers | _____ Unknown |

16. Specific Cultural Affiliation (phase, context, etc.)

17. Features:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
<u> </u> Mounds	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Rock Outline/Concentrations	<u> </u>
<u> </u> Depressions	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Historic Standing/Collapsed Buildings, Structures or Objects	<u> </u>
<u> </u> Stains	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Historic Foundations	<u> </u>
<u> </u> Petroglyphs	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Middens/Trash Deposits	<u> </u>
<u> </u> Petrographs	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Other (<u> </u>)	<u> </u>

18. Artifactual Material:

[illegible]

Chipped Stone Tools
Chipped Stone Debris
Ground Stone
Natural Stone Tools
Fire-cracked Rock
Other Lithic Debris
Rim Sherds
Body Sherds
Worked Bone
Worked Shell
Historic Artifacts
Faunal Remains
Floral Remains
Human Bone
Burned Earth
Daub
Isolated Item
Other

19. Site Work Status (check all work done):

 x **Reported**

 x **Surveyed**

 x **Photographed**

 x **Sketch Mapped**

 Instrument Mapped

 x **Mapped with GPS**

GPS make/ Trimble Geoexplorer III
model

Differentially Corrected? x Y N

_____ **Soil Cored/Probed**

_____ **Tested (pits/posthole/backhoe)**

_____ **Remote Sensing** _____

_____ **Excavated Partially**

_____ **Excavated Completely**

_____ **Surface Collected (uncontrolled)**

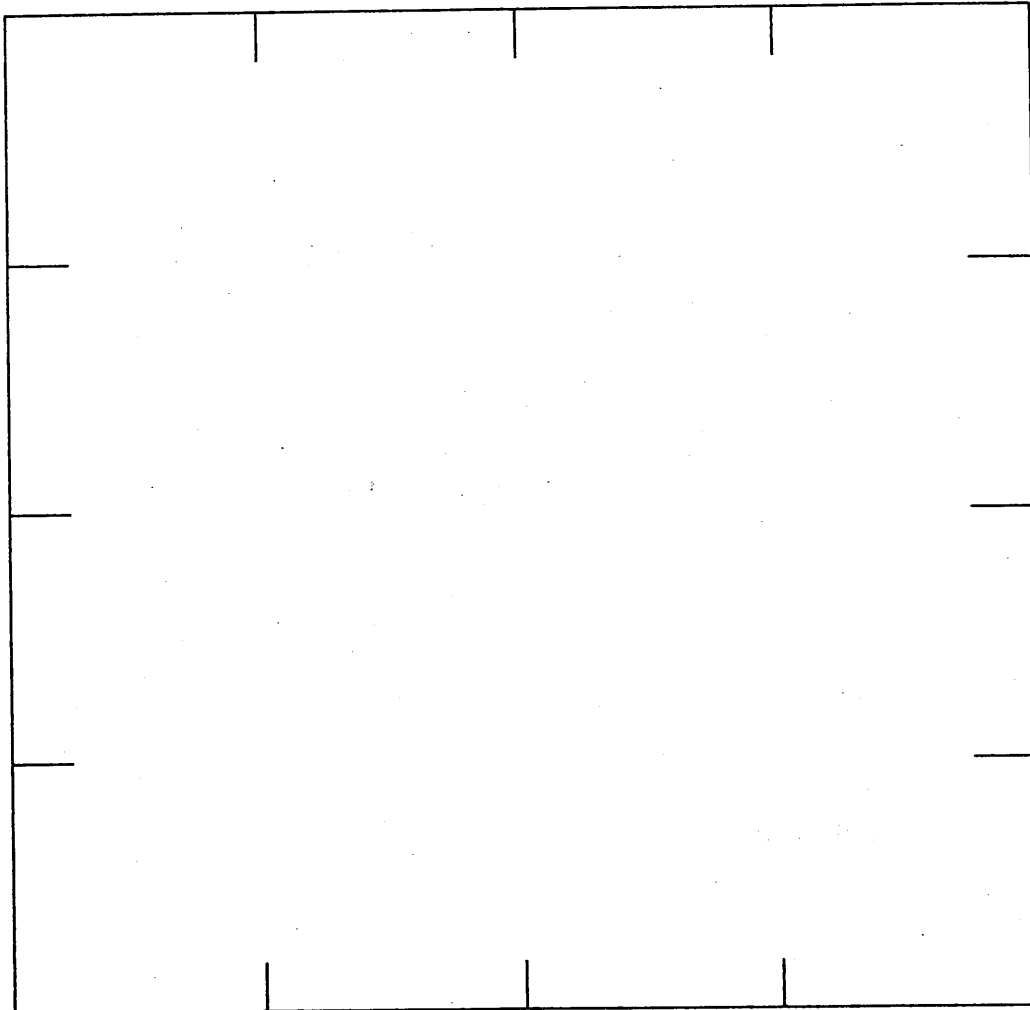
_____ **Surface Collected (controlled)**

_____ **other:**

20. ATTACH TO THIS SURVEY A XEROX COPY OF THE U.S.G.S. OR APPROPRIATE MAP SHOWING SITE LOCATION. IF NO APPROPRIATE SCALE MAP IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE PROVIDE A SKETCH MAP.

21. Sketch Map (optional):

Site No. 25FR40 Mapped by Bozell
Scale _____ Date 2-13-2003



N
↑

22. Present Condition:

_____ Undisturbed x Disturbed _____ Destroyed

23. Site Impacts:

Fill in the appropriate number(s): 1 = past, 2 = current, 3 = anticipated

1,2,3 Water Erosion
1,2,3 Wind Erosion
1,2,3 Animal Activity
_____ Vandalism

_____ Recreation
_____ Construction
1,2,3 Agriculture
_____ Other _____

24. National Register Status (SHPO only):

_____ On Register
_____ Eligible
_____ Not Eligible

25. Investigators Impression of National Register:

_____ Potentially Eligible
x Not Eligible
_____ Unevaluated/Unknown

26. Informant: _____
Address: _____

27. Owner of Site:

☒ Private (Name/Address, if known) Neal Wentworth (rural Franklin)

State (Agency) _____

Federal (Agency) _____

Other _____

28. Primary Information Location:

NSHS	UNL Museum	UNL Anthro. Dept	Other	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	Written Records
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	Map/Chart Records
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	Photo Records
_____	_____	_____	_____	Collections

29. Report References:

AN ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BNSF ABANDONMENT (FRANKLIN TO RED CLOUD), WEBSTER AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES, NEBRASKA

2003

by Rob Bozell

30. Comments:

This site was recorded in 1977 as a scatter of lithic debris. The site was re-visited in 2003 and also was expressed by a relatively thin but extensive scatter of lithic debris exposed on a 2nd terrace above Republican R. floodplain. The site has been damaged by land leveling and cultivation. No tools or diagnostic materials were observed and no evidence of features (fire-cracked rock, charcoal, daub, ash etc) was noted on the surface or eroding from the edge of the site area.

See Comments/Continuation Sheet for Additional Comments

31. Survey Conducted By:

Rob Bozell

(Name)

Feb 13, 2003

(Date)

Form Filled Out By

Rob Bozell

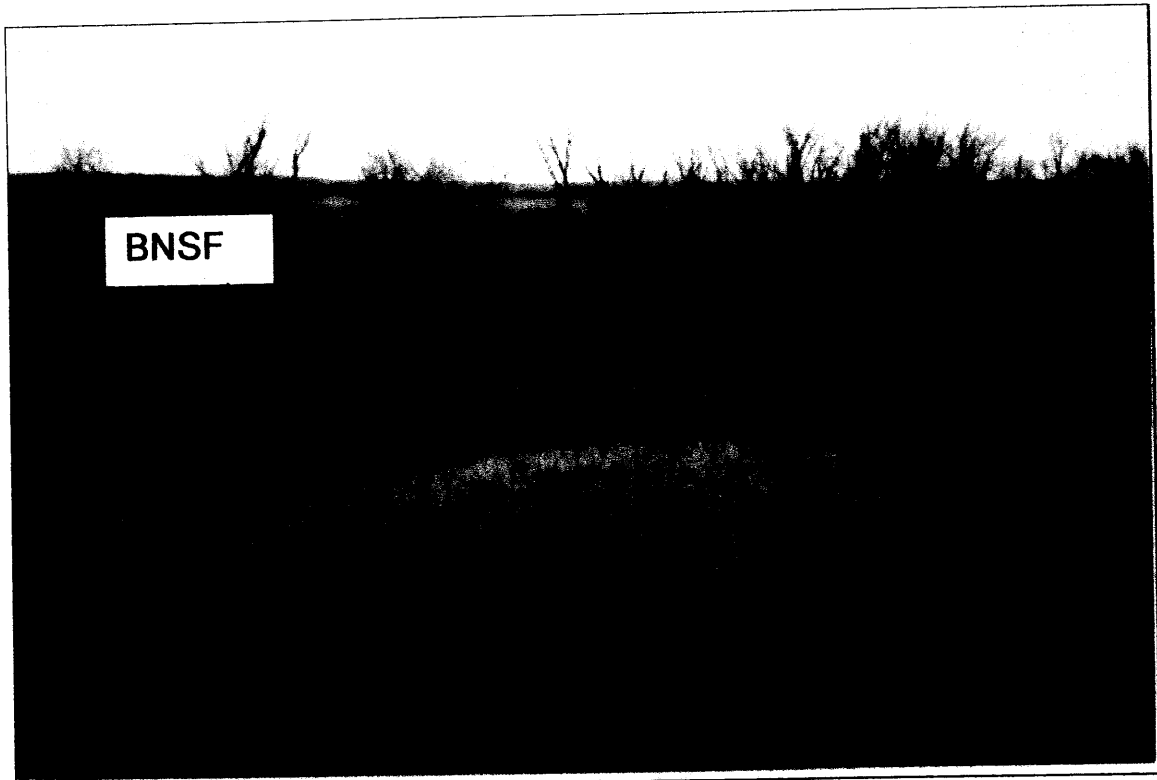
(Name)

February 16, 2003

(Date)

Send Completed Forms To:

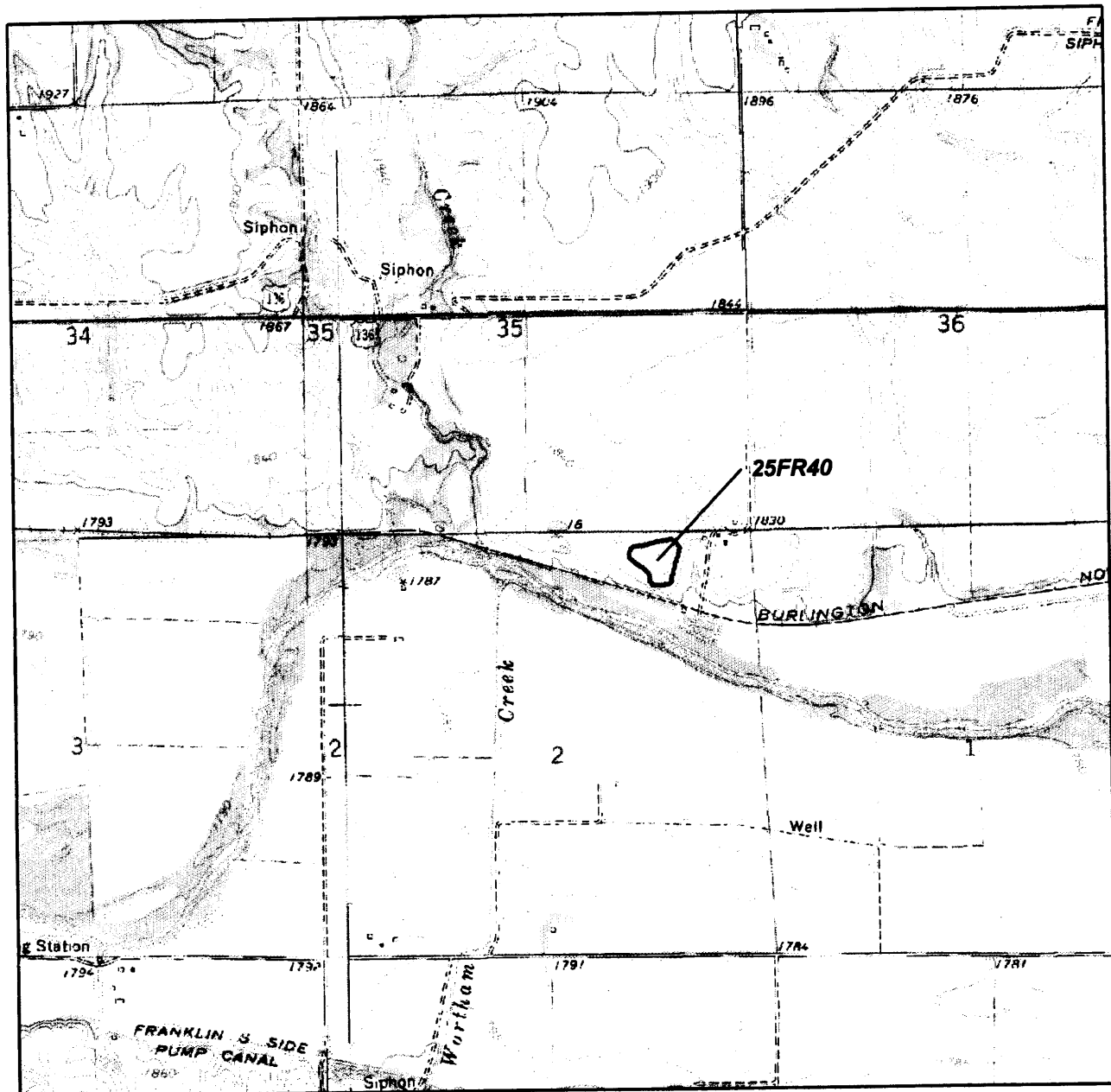
Nebraska State Historical Society
Archeology Division
P. O. Box 82554
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2554



View to the southwest from 25FR40 to BNSF right-of-way.



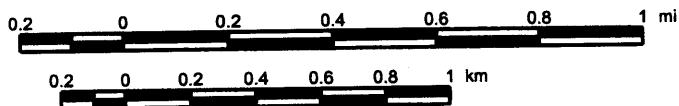
View to the northwest from BNSF right-of-way to site 25FR40.



25FR40



site boundary



FRANKLIN





Nebraska State Historical Society

Archeological Site Survey Form

1. Site Number: 25FR62 2. Site Name: _____
3. Project: Red Cloud-Franklin Abandonment 4. Survey Agency/Co.: NSHS
5. Field Number: RB1 6. Sponsor/Contract Agency: BNSF
7. County: Franklin 8. Drainage (NSHS only): _____
9. U.S.G.S. Quad. Map: Riverton NE NAD: x 1927 1983
10. x New Site _____ Previously Known Site (form is an update)

11. Legal Description:

QUARTER/HALE SECTIONS

				SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE
NW	SW	NW	SW	1	1N	14W
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

See Comments/Continuation Sheet

11. Site Size (m²): 4000 12. Elevation (ft): Min. 1810 Max. 1820

13. Descriptive Site Type:

- x Surface
x Buried Features/Cultural Layer(s)
_____ Cave/Rockshelter
_____ Unknown
_____ Other _____

14. Functional Site Type:

- _____ Burial(s)
_____ Ceremonial/Religious
_____ Extraction/Processing
x Habitation
_____ Unknown
_____ Other _____

15. Cultural Context:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| _____ Paleoindian | _____ Equestrian Nomads |
| _____ Archaic | _____ Reservation Native American |
| _____ Woodland | _____ Non-Specific Ceramic |
| <u>x</u> Central Plains | _____ Non-specific Late Prehist./Protohistoric |
| _____ Coalescent | _____ Unknown Prehistoric |
| _____ Oneota | _____ Euroamerican |
| _____ Western Nebraska Protohistoric | _____ Other Ethnic Historic |
| _____ Caddoan Villagers | _____ Unknown Historic |
| _____ Sedentary Siouan Villagers | _____ Unknown |

16. Specific Cultural Affiliation (phase, context, etc.)

CPT-UR (Upper Republican)

17. Features:

TYPE	NO.	TYPE	NO.
<input type="checkbox"/> Mounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Outline/Concentrations	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Depressions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Standing/Collapsed Buildings, Structures or Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Stains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Foundations	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Petroglyphs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Middens/Trash Deposits	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Petrographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (<input type="checkbox"/>)	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Artifactual Material:

OBSERVED/NOT
COLLECTED

COLLECTED

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chipped Stone Tools

Chipped Stone Debris

Ground Stone

Natural Stone Tools

Fire-cracked Rock

Other Lithic Debris

Rim Sherds

Body Sherds

Worked Bone

Worked Shell

Historic Artifacts

Faunal Remains

Floral Remains

Human Bone

Burned Earth

Daub

Isolated Item ☐

Other ☐

19. Site Work Status (check all work done):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reported
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Surveyed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sketch Mapped
<input type="checkbox"/>	Instrument Mapped
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mapped with GPS
	GPS make/ Trimble Geoexplorer III model
	Differentially Corrected? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N

☐ Soil Cored/Probed

☐ Tested (pits/posthole/backhoe)

☐ Remote Sensing ☐

☐ Excavated Partially

☐ Excavated Completely

☐ Surface Collected (uncontrolled)

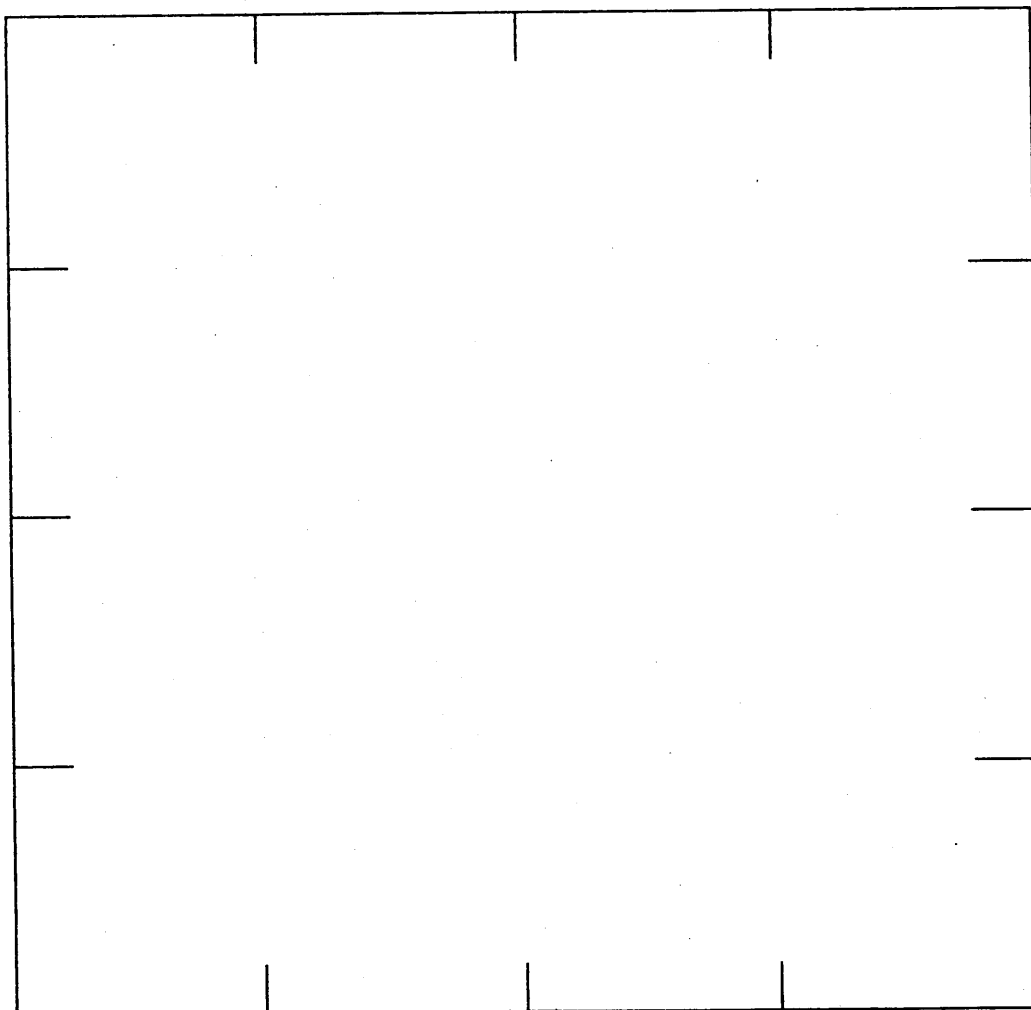
☐ Surface Collected (controlled)

☐ other: ☐

20. ATTACH TO THIS SURVEY A XEROX COPY OF THE U.S.G.S. OR APPROPRIATE MAP SHOWING SITE LOCATION. IF NO APPROPRIATE SCALE MAP IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE PROVIDE A SKETCH MAP.

21. Sketch Map (optional):

Site No. 25FR62 Mapped by Bozell
 Scale _____ Date 2-13-2003



22. Present Condition:

☐ Undisturbed ☒ Disturbed ☐ Destroyed

23. Site Impacts:

Fill in the appropriate number(s): 1 = past, 2 = current, 3 = anticipated

<u>1,2,3</u>	Water Erosion	<u> </u>	Recreation
<u>1,2,3</u>	Wind Erosion	<u> </u>	Construction
<u>1,2,3</u>	Animal Activity	<u>1,2,3</u>	Agriculture
<u> </u>	Vandalism	<u> </u>	Other <u> </u>

24. National Register Status (SHPO only):

☐ On Register
☐ Eligible
☐ Not Eligible

25. Investigators Impression of National Register:

☒ Potentially Eligible
☐ Not Eligible
☐ Unevaluated/Unknown

26. Informant: Neal Wentworth (rural Franklin)

Address: lives northwest of site

27. Owner of Site:

x Private (Name/Address, if known) Neal Wentworth (rural Franklin)

State (Agency) _____

Federal (Agency) _____

Other _____

28. Primary Information Location:

NSHS	UNL Museum	UNL Anthro. Dept	Other	
<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	Written Records
<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	Map/Chart Records
<u>x</u>	_____	_____	_____	Photo Records
_____	_____	_____	_____	Collections

29. Report References:

AN ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BNSF ABANDONMENT (FRANKLIN TO RED CLOUD), WEBSTER AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES, NEBRASKA

2003

by Rob Bozell

30. Comments:

This site is a quite dense scatter of lithic debris exposed over a fairly small portion of a 2nd terrace above the Republican River valley. In addition to flaking debris several bifacial knife and scraper fragments were noted as well as daub, fire-cracked rock, Central Plains tradition pottery, and animal bone. Some material appears to be eroding from terrace edge suggesting buried features. The site has been damaged by erosion and cultivation but appears to retain reasonable physical integrity.

See Comments/Continuation Sheet for Additional Comments

31. Survey Conducted By:

Rob Bozell

(Name)

Feb 13, 2003

(Date)

Form Filled Out By:

Rob Bozell

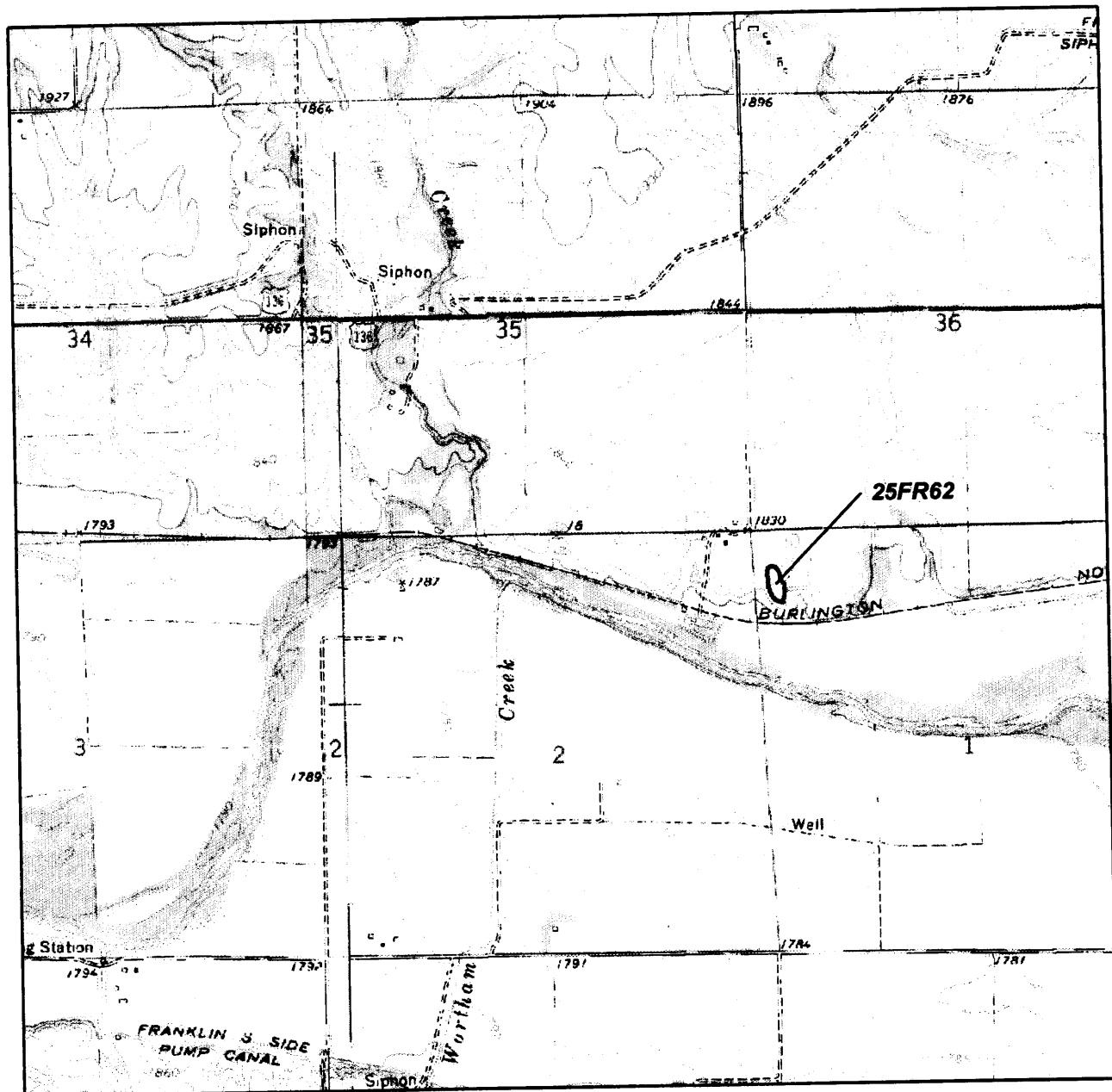
(Name)

February 16, 2003

(Date)

Send Completed Forms To:

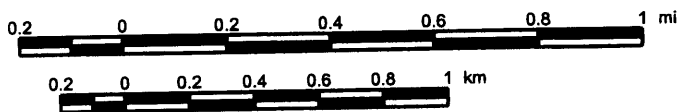
Nebraska State Historical Society
Archeology Division
P. O. Box 82554
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2554



25FR62



site boundary

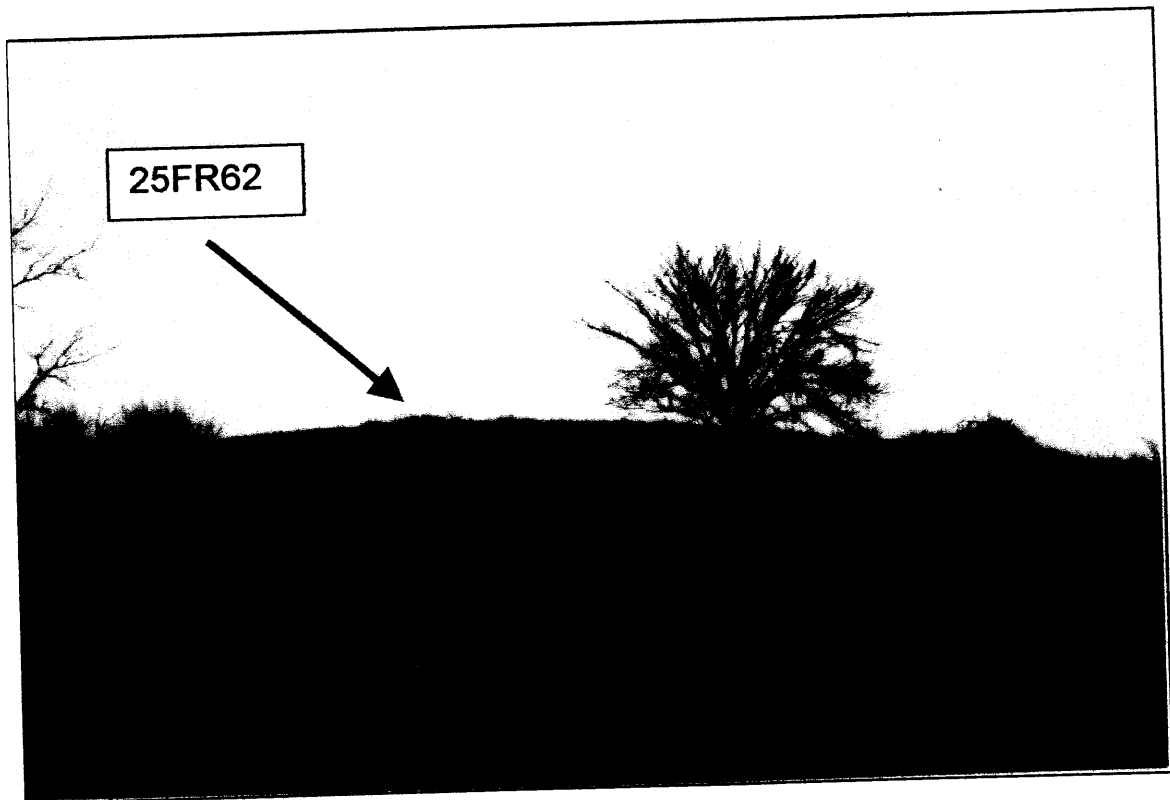


FRANKLIN





View to the south from 25FR62 to BNSF right-of-way.



View to the north from BNSF right-of-way to site 25FR62.